

# INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Since early May 1951, Soviet naval ships, presumably former German minesweepers and seiners, have been observed off the south coast of Finland. These vessels were painted gray, had a whitish-gray smoke stack and a flush quarter deck with a sloping elevation above the stern. About 7 p.m. on 14 July 1951, 11 seiners cruising in line abreast and steering an easterly course were observed about 17 nautical miles west of Helsinki. They proceeded at a speed of about 5 knots and apparently carried out mine-sweeping exercises.
2. Large Soviet warships were not observed, as naval exercises were apparently held at night. During the night of 22 and 23 March 1951, more than 40 searchlights, which continually changed their positions, were seen in operation. The training area extended from the Isle of Langoen (59°35'N/24°33'E) to a point about 15 nautical miles east-southeast of it. \* Soviet merchant traffic keeps close to the Estonian coast and was therefore not observed. Police officials in Aabo stated that two boats with Estonian refugees landed near Levisa (60°20'N/26°15'E) late in June 1951.
3. At noon on 17 July 1951, three large minesweepers, apparently former German vessels, were observed in the vicinity of the Isle of Hoogland (60°28'N/26°05'E). At 4 a.m. on 25 July 1951, a two stack destroyer was sighted about 2 1/2 miles south of Porkari (59°55'N/24°25'E). The destroyer appeared to come from the Bay of Keval and was steering for the light ship Reval (59°44'N/24°45'E) at an estimated speed of 15 knots.
4. At 6:30 p.m. on 25 July 1951, three vessels proceeding at a speed of about 17 knots were observed at a distance of about two nautical miles.
5. About 7 p.m. on 25 July 1951, two submarines of different types were observed lying close together in 58°45'N/21°10'E. The smaller one was fitted with a strikingly high conning tower and an automatic gun mounted forward of the tower. It was similar to the German type U 9 and may have been 250 to 300 tons. The size of the other boat was about 500 tons; it was equipped with a gun of 70 to 80 mm caliber forward of the conning tower.
6. No searchlights were observed during the period from 17 to 25 July 1951, but

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target practice with heavy guns was held along the Soviet coast and off the Isle of Dagoe during the day and night of that period. Star shells were observed being fired from the southwest coast of the Isle of Dagoe (58°50'N/22°20'E) in the direction of the Isle of Oesel.

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\*  Comment. The training area obviously belongs to the area of the fortress of Reval (Tallinn). The exercises were held in the coastal waters in front of this fortress.

\*\*  Comment. For sketch of the boat  see annex.

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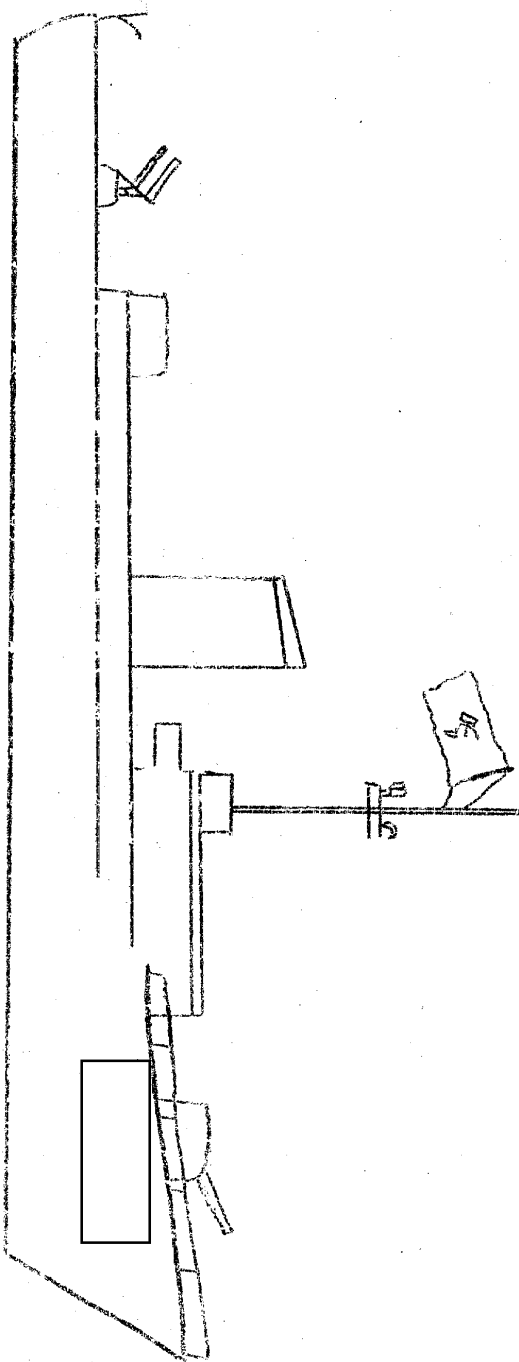
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Attachment

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